

2015 Annual Report For the year ended December 31, 2014

Published June 2015

District of Wells 2015 Annual Report For the year ended December 31, 2014

Report Contents

- 1. 2014 Municipal Operations Highlights
- 2. Evaluation of 2014 Objectives and Actions
- 3. Permissive Tax Exemptions for the year ended December 31, 2014
- 4. Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2014
- 5. 2015 Objectives and Actions
- 6. 2015-2019 Five-year Financial Plan
- 7. 2015 Strategic Communities Initiative Report



District of Wells 2014 Municipal Operations Highlights

- Secured over \$452,000 in government and non-government grants to offset cost of municipal operations and capital projects;
- Received final approval of the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest and commenced planning;
- Approved revised Unsightly and Untidy Premises Bylaw;
- Approved use of space in the Wells-Barkerville Community School for the Huckleberry Daycare;
- Hosted Volunteer Appreciation Night;
- Provided low or no cost facilities for local organizations including Island Mountain Arts for ArtsWells and summer school programs, the Wells Chamber of Commerce for the Visitor Information Centre in the summer, the Wells and Area Community Association for the Community Garden, the Wells Best Seniors for the Seniors Centre, the Wells Historical Society for storage in the School, and the Wells and Area Trails Society for storage of trail grooming equipment;
- Provided \$10,950 in annual grants-in-aid to local organizations;
- Operated a subsidized weekly Transit System Service between Wells and Quesnel;
- Supported the Wells Volunteer Fire Brigade providing fire protection for Wells and Barkerville and reducing local fire insurance premiums;
- Participated in joint marketing initiatives with Barkerville Historic Town and the regional Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association;
- Supported and organized various community events, workshops and programs;
- Held eighth successful Annual Town Clean-up Event;
- Undertook general cleanup and grass cutting operations in high visibility areas, playing fields and parks throughout the tourist season;
- Initiated Wednesday Snow Clearing days to improve efficiency of snow operations;
- Operated and maintained the municipal water, sewer, and garbage collection utilities;
- Upgraded the District website;
- Provided for street lights;
- Completed a Risk Control Survey through the Municipal Insurance Association;
- Completed the a community based health project including workshops and a final report;
- Worked with the Province to improve signage along Highway 26;
- Minimized tax rate increase at 3% and utility rate increase of 5%;
- Completed painting of the Wells Community Hall;
- Paid off Water Treatment Plant loan; and
- Operated and maintained all municipal buildings and facilities.



DISTRICT OF WELLS EVALUATION OF 2014 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS
Adequate housing available for Wells/Barkerville seasonal residents	Using the results of the 2012 Housing Study, continue actions to address the seasonal housing shortage in Wells.	In progress.
	Work with the Province to expedite the release of Crown owned municipal lots for sale to public.	Advertised Crown lots for sale and assist interested persons about the lots; continue to work with Province.
Town Cleanup	Develop an Adjudication Bylaw and	Unsightly Premises Bylaw adopted September 16, 2014
	expand/update the Untidy Premises Bylaw to include residential properties with an emphasis on reducing accumulations of wrecks.	Adjudication Bylaw enacted by the Province, working to develop District Bylaw and procedures.
Recognize/Recruit Community Volunteers	Encourage more residents to volunteer for community organizations.	Ongoing.
	Provide grants-in-aid to sustain non-profit organizations.	Provided \$10,950 in Grants-in-Aid to local non-profit organizations and of in-kind support. Provided tax exemptions to 6 properties owned by non-profit organizations.
Paint the Wells Community Hall	Secure Funding and complete work started in 2013.	Project completed including new windows on lower floor, new railings in front and completed painting of exterior.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS
Fire Brigade	Organize recruitment drive.	In progress.
Sustainability	Publicize house insurance benefits.	In progress.
	Pursue member certification and training.	In progress.
Fire Hall Addition	Secure grant to build addition.	In progress.
Road Safety	Secure grant to install a second electronic Speed Sign on Hwy 26.	In progress.
Wildlife Interface	Explore options to improve Urban/Wildlife interface in Wells.	Ongoing meetings of Wells Wildlife Smart Committee.
Community Daycare	Support Community Daycare through Grant-in- Aid.	Daycare supported through Grant-in-Aid to WAACA.
Blair St. Bridge	Explore funding options to replace.	Supported project through \$2000 Grant-in-Aid. Project grant successful; bridge to be completed in 2015.

2. Promote Sustainable Development						
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS				
Sustainable Community	Support private sector initiatives that provide new employment and services.	ovide Engaged private sector employers.				
	Support Barkerville Heritage Trust.	Worked on various joint marketing campaigns and supported as needed throughout the year.				

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS			
Sustainable Community	Support local Mining initiatives.	Ongoing.			
	Support services and housing options for aging population.	In progress.			
	Support Community Daycare.	Support Community Daycare through grant-in-aid and provision of rental space in the Wells-Barkerville Community School.			
	Support maintaining sufficient tourist accommodation in Wells.	In progress.			
Emergency Planning	Continue to lobby for the creation of Circular Route from Barkerville to Hwy 16 (Purden Lake) via Bowron Lake Road.	Lobbied for Circle Route at 2014 UBCM and have the support of several communities.			
	At UBCM, explore options for improving Ambulance response to backcountry incidents.	In progress.			
Wells-Barkerville Community Forest	Commence operations once final approval received from Province.	Final approval received in 2014. Ongoing meetings of Community Forest Board to determine next steps.			
Ensure adequate staffing for District of Wells positions	Support staff training/development	Several staff received support for training received in 2014. Supported several staff to attend conferences and training sessions.			
	Support staff retention with competitive salaries, benefits and lifestyle incentives.	Staff salary increase of 2% in 2014 to remain competitive. Continue to maintain competitive staff benefits.			

3. Maintain Public Infrastructure						
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS				
Improve the appearance of Public Buildings	Paint Town Hall in 2014.	Deferred to 2015; repair completed to building foundation.				
Church Renovation	Secure grant for repairs to Church.	Continue to actively seek funds to repair the Church.				
Conserve and Recycle	Work with Regional District on local recycling options.	Have engaged with local community groups to investigate potential recycling options.				
Road Maintenance	Negotiate an extension of the Road Maintenance contract with HMC for a two or more year period within budgeted rates.	Negotiated two year contract.				
Snow Operations	Introduce changes to snow clearing focusing on specified days for major work and widening operations.	Implemented Wednesday snow clearing operations for major widening operations.				
Water Quality	Operate and maintain water filter.	Ongoing.				

4. Maintain a Healthy Financial Position						
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS				
Reduce Debentures	Continue to pay down water loan. Minimize borrowing except where external funding sources are available for repayment.	Paid off water loan. Did not borrow any additional funds in 2014.				

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PROGRESS
Maintain an adequate financial reserve	Maintain reserve funds equivalent or greater than one year's total tax and utility revenue.	Ongoing.
Minimize Tax and Utility Rate increases	3% Tax Rate increase in 2014 and each year thereafter until 2018 and one time 5% Utility Rate increase in 2014.	Updated Utility Rates in 2014 reflecting a 5% increase. Tax Rates increased 3% in 2014.

Permissive Tax Exemptions for the year ended December 31, 2014 UNDER DIVISION 7, PART 7 OF THE COMMUNITY CHARTER

Name of Organization	Folio #	Class	Rate	Assessment	Tax Exempted
Wells Historical Society	09351.002	6	24.42193	\$109,700	\$3,153
Wells Historical Society	05541.991	6	24.42193	\$29,700	\$1,199
Island Mountain Arts Society	01650.000	6	24.42193	\$53,600	\$1,783
Island Mountain Arts Society	01771.010	1	10.06301	\$20,700	\$208
Wells Recreation Society	01480.002	6	24.42193	\$338,900	\$8,751
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 128	01433.001	6	24.42193	\$81,100	<u>\$990</u>
				TOTAL	\$16,085

DISTRICT OF WELLS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

INDEX

	Page
Management's Responsibility	2
Independent Auditor's Report	3-4
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	5
Consolidated Statement of Operations	6
Consolidated Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets	7
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	8
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	9-17
Independent Auditor's Report on Supplementary Information	18
General Operating Fund Statement of Financial Position	19
General Operating Fund Statement of Operations	20-22
Water System Statement of Financial Position	23
Water System Statement of Operations	24
Sewer System Statement of Financial Position	25
Sewer System Statement of Operations	26

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The information and representations in the consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Mayor and Council of the District of Wells. The consolidated financial statements were prepared by management in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards and, where necessary, reflect management's best estimates and judgements at this time. It is reasonably possible that circumstances may arise which cause actual results to differ. Management does not believe it is likely that any differences will be material.

The District of Wells maintains systems of internal accounting controls, policies and procedures to provide reasonable assurances as to the reliability of the financial records and safeguarding of its assets.

The Mayor and Council are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and are ultimately responsible for reviewing and approving the consolidated financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements have been reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Council. The consolidated financial statements have been audited by Fraser Bevz Broughton Chartered Accountants LLP, the independent auditors, whose report follows.

April 24, 2015 Wells, British Columbia



D. Kane Fraser, CPA, CA* Partner

Shelley R. Bevz, CPA, CA Partner, Certified Aboriginal Finance Manager

> Ryan Broughton, CPA, CA* Partner *Denotes incorporated professional

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor and Council, **District of Wells**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the District of Wells, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2014 and the Consolidated Statements of Operations, Changes in Net Financial Assets and Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan an perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



FRASER BEVZ BROUGHTON Chartered Accountants LLP D. Kane Fraser, CPA, CA* Partner

Shelley R. Bevz, CPA, CA Partner, Certified Aboriginal Finance Manager

> Ryan Broughton, CPA, CA* Partner *Denotes incorporated professional

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Opinion

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District of Wells as at December 31, 2014, and the results of its operations, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Fraser Ber Breughton) Chartered accountants LL

April, 24, 2015 Quesnel, British Columbia Fraser Bevz Broughton Chartered Accountants LLP

District of Wells Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2014

θ.	2014	-	2013
			(restated)
Financial assets			
Cash and investments	\$ 357,946	\$	508,476
Taxes and accounts receivable (note 2)	156,506		163,540
Investment in wholly owned subsidiary (note 3)	 955	No.	955
	 515,407		672,971
Financial Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	36,543		50,992
Due to Ministry of Finance	62,050		59,292
Deferred revenue (note 4)	26,162		124,609
Barkerville cemetary fund	1,084		1,137
District debt (note 5)	 24,184	1	76,599
	 150,023	; 	312,629
Net financial assets	 365,384		360,342
Non-financial assets			
Property acquired for taxes	4,620		4,620
Tangible capital assets (note 6)	 6,174,081		6,340,111
	 6,178,701		6,344,731
District Surplus (note 7)	\$ 6,544,085	\$	6,705,073

District of Wells Consolidated Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2014

Revenue	*	2014 Budget (unaudited)		2014 Actual		2013 Actual
	ć	222.200	\$	302,851	\$	342,687
Government grants Taxation	\$	333,360	Ş		Ş	175,411
Other revenue from own sources		177,394		174,377 61,332		80,218
Utility user fees		46,170		76,251		67,540
Northern Development Initiative Trust		72,747 82,500		67,197		57,395
Sale of services		82,500 14,728		15,084		15,498
Chamber co-operative marketing		14,728		467		10,400
Government and other contributions		1,000		407		
for capital		59,509		59,843		59,509
		787,408		757,402		798,258
Deferred from previous year				124,609		232,846
Deferred to following year		-		(26,162)		(124,609)
		787,408		855,849		906,495
Expenses						
Amortization		-		175,386		172,982
General government services		718,382		750,934		713,960
Protective services		20,312		14,334		16,489
Water utility operations		38,509		47,438		23,493
Sewer utility operations		31,659		22,776		24,044
Interest		5,168	_	5,969		6,286
		814,030		1,016,837		957,254
Annual Surplus		(26,622)		(160,988)		(50,759)
District surplus, beginning of year				6,705,073		6,755,832
District surplus, end of year			\$	6,544,085	\$	6,705,073

District of Wells Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets For the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2013
	(1997) - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 19 97 - 1 9	(restated)
Annual surplus	(160,988)	(50,759)
Amortization	175,386	172,982
Tangible assets purchased	(9,356)	(86,686)
Increase in net financial assets	5,042	35,537
Net Financial Assets, beginning of year	360,342	324,805
Net Financial Assets, end of year	\$ 365,384	\$ 360,342

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended December 31, 2014

	3	2014	 2013
NET INFLOW (OUTFLOW) OF CASH:			
Operating Activities			
Annual surplus	\$	(160,988)	\$ (50,759)
Non-cash charges to operations			
Amortization		175,386	172,982
Changes in non-cash operating balances:			
Increase in taxes and accounts receivable		7,034	6,549
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and			
accrued liabilities		(14,449)	32,627
Increase in Due to Ministry of Finance		2,758	(-)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue		(98,447)	(108,237)
Increase in Barkerville cemetary fund		(53)	 70
		(88,759)	 53,162
Capital Activities			
Tangible capital asset purchases		(9,356)	 (86,686)
Financing Activities			
District debt repayment		(52,415)	 (70,244)
Increase (decrease) in cash and investments		(150,530)	(103,768)
Cash and investments, beginning of year		508,476	 612,244
Cash and investments, end of year	\$	357,946	\$ 508,476

General

The Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the statements. They explain the significant accounting and reporting policies, and the principles that form the basis for these statements. The Notes also provide important supplementary information and explanations, which cannot be conveniently integrated into the Consolidated Financial Statements.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of Presentation

These consolidated financial statements reflect all revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities of the District of Wells. It is the District's policy to follow Canadian public sector accounting standards and apply such principles consistently. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared incorporating guidelines issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants as recommended by Municipal Affairs, Province of British Columbia.

The focus of Canadian public sector accounting standards is on the financial position of the District and the changes thereto. The Consolidated Statement of Financial Position reflects the combined results and activities of the District's Operating, Capital and Reserve Funds. The purposes of these funds are:

i. Operating Funds

Operating Funds are to be used to record the costs associated with providing District services.

ii. Capital Funds

Capital Funds are used to account for the acquisition costs of the District's Tangible Capital Assets, the accumulated amortization thereon, and the funding thereof including related long-term debt.

iii. Reserve Funds

Under the *Local Government Act* of the Province of British Columbia, the Mayor and Council of the District may, by bylaw, establish Reserve Funds for specific purposes. Money in a Reserve Fund and interest thereon must be used only for the purpose for which the fund was established. If the amount in a Reserve Fund is greater than required, the Mayor and Council may, by bylaw, transfer all or part of the balance to another Reserve Fund.

Financial assets are economic resources controlled by the government as a result of past transactions from which future economic benefits may be obtained. Liabilities are present obligations of the government to others arising from past transactions, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits.

Revenues are accounted for in the period in which the transactions or events occurred that gave rise to the revenues. Expenses are recorded in the period in which goods and services are acquired and a liability is incurred.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

b. Restricted Financial Assets

Restricted financial assets include assets held in trust to be expended only in accordance with the conditions of the trust, and amounts from reserve funds set aside for future debt retirement or for future capital expenditures.

c. Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost which includes all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset, excluding all interest costs. Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at their fair value at the date of receipt, and that fair value is also recorded as revenue.

Amortization is provided using the straight-line method at the following rates:

Buildings	2.50%
Roads and infrastructure	2.00%
Equipment	10.00%
Water system	1.25%
Sewer system	1.25%
Mountain trails system	1.25%

d. Restricted and Deferred Revenues

Receipts which are restricted by the legislation of senior governments or by agreement with external parties are deferred and reported as restricted revenues. When related expenses are incurred they are brought into revenue in the year the expenses were incurred. Revenues received in advance of expenses which will be incurred in a later period are deferred until the expenses are incurred.

e. Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Significant areas requiring the the use of management estimates include: determination of accrued sick benefits, collectability of accounts receivable, amortization of tangible capital assets and provisions for contingencies. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Adjustments, if any, will be reflected in operations in the period of settlement.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

f. Adoption of new accounting policy

The District has adopted the provisions of Section PS 3260 - Liability for Contaminated Sites of the CPA Canada Public Sector Accounting Handbook. Section PS 3260 establishes standards on accounting for and disclosure of liabilities associated with the remediation of contaminated sites in order to ensure relevant and reliable information is provided and to promote uniformity and consistency of application of the standards. The District has implemented the necessary procedures to enable it to comply with the requirements of Section PS 3260 beginning with the year ended December 31, 2014. The District has applied the standard prospectively and information related to the new standard is disclosed in Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

2. TAXES AND ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	3 	2014	_	2013
Tax roll and utilities	\$	72,139	\$	59,984
GST/HST refund		6,537		12,604
Northern Development Initiative Trust		68,721		57,395
Plan H - Healthy Communties grant		2,000		5 2 01
Northern Health Authority		5,334		4,925
Other		1,775		(,,)
Western Economic Development	, ,		<u></u>	28,632
	\$	156,506	\$	163,540

3. INVESTMENT IN WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY

Wells - Barkerville Community Forest Ltd.		
Advances	\$ 855	\$ 855
Shares	100	100
	\$ 955	\$ 955

There are no specific terms of repayment on the unsecured non-interest bearing advances. The above company is in the process of developing a community forest, the economic benefits of which will accrue to the local area. The District has submitted and received approval on their community forest, but no operations have occurred as at December 31, 2014.

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

5.

The District has recorded the following externally restricted revenues to be used in the completion of ongoing projects:

	a.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , 	2014	 2013
Small Communities Grant		\$.=	\$ 124,609
Tourism (additional hotel room tax)			1,138	
Community Works Fund			25,024	 <u> </u>
		\$	26,162	\$ 124,609

The District is a participant under the Community Works Fund that provides for the District's receiving Federal gas taxes transferred under the New Deal for Cities and Communities signed by the Union of BC Municipalities, the Province of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada. Although the District has some latitude in determining which projects to pursue, the agreement provides that projects should address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, cleaner air and cleaner water.

Activity of the Community Works Fund		2014	 2013
Balance - beginning of the year	\$	-	\$ 2,681
Received from UBCM		59,843	59,509
Interest		945	-
Eligible project expenditures	-	(35,764)	 (62,190)
	\$	25,024	\$ -
. DISTRICT DEBT			
General Fund			
M.F.A. Leasing Corporation - Toshiba copier lease repayable in monthly instalments of \$166 including interest at 1.25%	\$	×	\$ 1,004
Water Fund			
Interim Funding - Water System Upgrade Project		-	40,176
Debenture Debt		24,184	 35,419
	\$	24,184	\$ 76,599

5. DISTRICT DEBT (continued)

Estimated principal repayments required in the each of the next four years are as follows:

2014	\$ 6,256
2015	6,256
2016	6,256
2017	5,416

6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

					2014		2013	2
			Accumulated	-				
		Cost	Amortization		Net Carry	ing Amou	unt	
Land	\$	257,524	\$	\$	257,524	\$	257,524	
Buildings		2,864,850	752,763	\$	2,112,087		2,174,236	
Roads and infrastructure		708,957	164,579	\$	544,378		558,557	
Mountain trail systems		181,580	6,576	\$	175,004		176,139	
Equipment		672,637	529,725	\$	142,912		186,561	
Water system		2,274,191	382,707	\$	1,891,484		1,919,911	
Sewer system		1,319,257	268,565	\$	1,050,692		1,067,183	
	1							
	\$	8,278,996	\$ 2,104,915	\$	6,174,081	\$	6,340,111	ą

Tangible Capital Asset Additions for the year are as follows:

	Cost					Cost
	January 1, 2014		Additions		Dec	ember 31, 2014
Land	\$	257,524	\$		\$	257,524
Buildings		2,855,495		9,355	\$	2,864,850
Roads and infrastructure		708,95 7		-	\$	708,957
Mountain trail systems		181,580		-	\$	181,580
Equipment		672,637		2	\$	672,637
Water system		2,274,191		-	\$	2,274,191
Sewer system	·	1,319,257		•	\$	1,319,257
	\$	8,269,641	\$	9,355	\$	8,278,996

6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (continued)

Amortization for the year is as follows:

	Balance		Amortization		Balance		
	ŗ	January 1, 2014			December 31, 201		
Buildings	\$	681,259	\$	71,504	\$	752,763	
Roads and infrastructure		150,400		14,179		164,579	
Mountain trail systems		5,441		1,135		6,576	
Equipment		486,076		43,649		529,725	
Water system		354,280		28,427		382,707	
Sewer system		252,074		16,491		268,565	
	\$	1,929,530	\$	175,385	\$	2,104,915	
. DISTRICT SURPLUS							
			:	2014		2013 (restated)	
General operating fund			\$	3,587,944	\$	3,760,712	
Water system				1,883,350		1,863,925	
Sewer system				1,072,791		1,080,436	
			\$	6,544,085	\$	6,705,073	

8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

a. The District is jointly and severally liable under the provisions of the *Community Charter* for any default on monies borrowed by the Cariboo Regional District.

b. Municipal Pension Plan

7.

The District and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (Plan), a jointly trusteed pension plan. The Board of Trustees, representing Plan members and employers, is responsible for overseeing the management of the Plan, including investment of the assets and administration of benefits. The Plan is a multi-employer contributory pension plan. Basic pension benefits provided are based on a formula. The Plan has about 179,000 active members and approximately 71,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 35,000 contributors from local governments.

Every three years an actuarial valuation is performed to assess the financial position of the Plan and the adequacy of Plan funding. The most recent valuation as at December 2012 indicated a funding deficit of \$1,370 million for basic pension benefits.

8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (continued)

b. Municipal Pension Plan (continued)

The next valuation will be December 31, 2015 with results available in 2016. Employers participating in the Plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension accounting). This is because the Plan records accrued liabilities and assets for the Plan in aggregate with the result that there is no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and costs to the individual employers participating in the Plan.

The District of Wells paid \$11,612 for employer contributions to the Plan in fiscal 2014 (\$7,453 - 2013).

c. Greenhouse Gas Reducation Targets

The Province of British Columbia has enacted the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*. The Act sets targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33% below 2007 levels by 2020. The Act requires that local governments comply with the Act commencing in 2011. Management has taken the necessary steps to comply with the Act. Costs of compliance will be recorded in the years such costs are incurred.

9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The District receives a significant portion of revenue from the Province of British Columbia through the government's Small Community Protection Program. The effect on the District's operations would be significantly adverse should the program be discontinued.

The current program's final payment was in June 2014. The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development has confirmed the new iteration of the program will continue through 2015 and beyond with \$51M allocated to small communities in 2015. Funding in fiscal 2015 to the District is going to be \$401,338 in the form of an unconditional grant.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The District's financial instruments consist of cash and investments, taxes and accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and District debt. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the District is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risks arising from these financial instruments. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values, unless otherwise noted.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

The District is exposed to financial risk that arises from the credit quality of the entities to which it provides services. Credit risk arises from the possibility that the entities to which the District provides services may experience financial difficulty and be unable to fulfill their obligations. The District mitigates this risk by dealing with counterparties management considers to be of high integrity.

The District is exposed to interest rate risk arising from fluctuations in interest rates on its cash and investments. No financial instruments are held that mitigate this risk.

11. EXPENSES BY OBJECT

	2014	2014	2013
	Budget	Actual	Actual
	(unaudited)		
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 349,059	\$ 346,939	\$ 321,041
Materials and supplies	35,757	45,070	43,585
Contracted services	185,881	188,132	191,610
Rent, maintenance and utilities	164,774	180,751	146,376
Mayor and Council remuneration and travel	34,022	36,411	33,820
Insurance	25,419	24,529	26,055
Grants	12,450	10,950	23,337
Debt charges	5,168	5,969	6,286
Election costs	1,500	2,700	3 4)
Amortization	 <u>a</u>	 175,386	 172,982
	\$ 814,030	\$ 1,016,837	\$ 965,092

12. LIABILITY FOR CONTAMINATED SITES

The District is aware of 3 sites in the municipal area which are known to be contaminated with hazardous historical mine waste as noted by various site assessments and exceed the environmental standard. The Province of British Columbia has taken responsibility for remediation of these sites. The sites are in a remote location and the contamination is contained at the sites. The contamination is not likely to affect public health, safety, cause damage or otherwise impair the quality of the surrounding environment. The Province of British Columbia has posted signs indicating "caution hazardous historical mine waste" and to the District's knowledge has no further plans to remediate the sites.

Since the District does not bear responsibility for these sites, no liability related to remediation has been recognized in these financial statements.

13. BUDGETED FIGURES

The budget amounts presented throughout these consolidated financial statements are unaudited and represent the five year financial plan bylaw approved by the District Mayor and Council on May 14, 2012.

The financial plan anticipated use of surpluses accumulated in previous years to provide for any current year expenditures in excess of current year revenues. Another significant variance is that the financial plan anticipated capital expenditures rather than amortization expense, and changes in District debt.

The summary below reconciles the 2014 adopted financial plan to the budgeted figures presented on the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Budgeted consolidated annual surplus	\$	÷
Budgeted amounts for:		
Tangible Capital Asset acquisitions		16,000
District debt principal repayments		46,432
Net transfers from reserves	<u> </u>	(89,054)
Budgeted consolidated annual surplus, as reported	\$	(26,622)

14. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

During the year, it was determined that since inception, the District has been collecting school and police tax on properties held by the RCMP and was not paying a grant in lieu for these properties. The District is required to remit these amounts to the School Tax Authority. The comparative figures for the year ending 2013 are restated as follows:

	2014	2013
Increase to due to Ministry of Finance	\$ 62,050	\$ 59,292
Decrease to taxation revenue	\$ (2,758)	\$ <u> -</u>
Decrease to opening surplus	\$ (59,292)	\$ (59,292)

15. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

In the next fiscal year, the District plans to repair the Lowhee Dyke and begin a multi-year gravel removal plan from the creek. The costs associated with the dyke repairs will be recognized in the period as services are rendered. The estimated cost of the project is \$75,000.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

To the Mayor and Council, **District of Wells**,

We have audited and reported separately herein on the consolidated financial statement of the District of Wells as at and for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The current year's supplementary information included is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

February 18, 2015 Quesnel, British Columbia Fraser Bevz Broughton Chartered Accountants LLP

General Operating Fund - Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2014

		2014		2013
)			(restated)
Financial assets				
Cash and investments	\$	357,946	\$	508,476
Taxes and accounts receivable		156,506		163,540
Investment in wholly owned subsidiary		955		955
		515,407		672,971
Financial Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		36,543		50,992
Due to Ministry of Finance		62,050		59,292
Deferred revenue		26,162		124,609
Barkerville cemetary fund		1,084		1,137
District debt		ω		1,004
Due to other funds		38,149		32,862
		163,988	_	269,896
Net financial assets		351,419		403,075
Non-financial assets				
Property acquired for taxes		4,620		4,620
Tangible capital assets		3,231,905	(<u> </u>	3,353,017
		3,236,525		3,357,637
District Surplus	\$	3,587,944	\$	3,760,712

General Operating Fund - Statement of Operations

	2014 Budget (unaudited)		2014 Actual	 2013 Actual (restated)
Revenue - page 21	\$ 627,459	\$	594,404	\$ 643,516
Deferred from previous year			124,609	232,846
Deferred to following year	- 627,459		(26,162) 692,851	 (124,609) 751,753
Expenses				
Amortization	-		130,468	129,215
General government services - page 22	343,566		361,026	301,170
Civic Buildings - page 22	76,872		88,220	70,376
Fire Protection	18,312		11,763	16,070
Other protective services	2,000		2,571	420
Other - page 22	220,365	(220,160	255,047
	661,115		814,208	 772,298
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	(33,656)	(121,357)	(20,545)
District surplus, beginning of year		3,	760,712	3,839,058
Transfers to water system			(51,411)	 (57,801)
District surplus, end of year		\$3,	587,944	\$ 3,760,712

General Operating Fund - Statement of Revenues

	0	2014 Budget (unaudited)	 2014 Actual		2013 Actual
Revenue				A	70 170
Taxation	\$	72,594	\$ 70,556	\$	70,479
Other revenue from own sources		46,170	61,332		80,218
Northern Development Initiative Trust		82,500	67,197		57,395
Grants in lieu of taxes		13,638	13,133		13,769
Sale of services		14,728	15,084		15,498
Chamber co-operative marketing		1,000	467		
Parcel tax		3,960	3,940		3,960
		234,590	 231,709	_	241,319
Government and other contributions					
UBCM pooled funds		59,509	59,843		59,509
Government grants					
Unconditional		312,434	275,000		323,713
Community health		20,926	27,852		18,975
		333,360	302,852		342,688
	\$	627,459	\$ 594,404	\$	643,516

General Operating Fund - Detailed expenditures

General government Administration Audit and legal Insurance and deductible claims Legislative Repayment of GST rebate Office supplies and service contracts Administration recoveries	\$	2014 Budget (unaudited) 329,477 15,585 23,861 35,822 - 21,500 (22,670)	\$	2014 Actual 336,017 16,079 24,529 39,029 10,606 17,445 (82,670)	\$	2013 Actual 298,671 13,085 24,497 35,035 - 17,707 (87,825)
Administration recoveries	_	(82,679)		(82,679)		
		343,566		361,026		301,170
Civic Buildings Community hall	\$	14,852	\$	17,498	\$	13,005
Municipal hall		10,270		10,767		8,725
Church		×.		1,183		94. 1
Wells/Barkerville school		51,750		58,772		48,646
		76,872	_	88,220		70,376
					1	
Other						
Public works	\$	123,850	\$	125,160	\$	121,918
Curling rink renovation project		2		-		9,557
Temporary post office		-		90 (H		16,956
Municipal transit		20,926		20,906		21,710
Refuse collection		13,000		13,600		12,500
Economic development		12,450		12,816		12,446
Community promotion		18,350		19,910		16,950
Housing study		-		ж.		13,000
Street lighting		6,864		7,059		6,675
Community forest application		800		364		464
Visitor centre operating		2,025		1,243		1,734
Barkerville cemetery		1,500		14		2,831
Interest and bank charges		600		1,153		460
Environmental study		-		×		10,166
NDIT Frontage Improvement Project		20,000		17,949		7,680
		220,365		220,160	-	255,047

Water System - Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2014

		2014		2013
Financial assets	ć	16.050	ć	19,609
Due from general operating fund	\$	16,050	\$	19,009
Financial Liabilities				
District debt		24,184		75,595
Net financial assets		(8,134)		(55,986)
Non-financial assets				
Tangible capital assets	-	1,891,484		1,919,911
District Surplus	\$	1,883,350	\$	1,863,925

Water System - Statement of Operations For the year ended December 31, 2014

	(2014 Budget (unaudited)	<u>.</u>	2014 Actual	 2013 Actual
Revenue					
Customer billings	\$	37,861	\$	38,589	\$ 36,057
Connection charges and custom work	·	1,360		1,952	315
Parcel taxes		47,092		46,848	47,092
	2	86,313	() <u></u>	87,389	83,464
Expenses					
Administration		38,692		38,692	47,080
Amortization		-		28,428	27,276
Contracted services				9,187	
Distribution		36,709		37,202	21,693
Hydrants		1,800		1,050	1,800
Interest		4,568		4,816	5,827
		81,769		119,375	103,676
Annual Surplus (Deficit)		4,544		(31,986)	(20,212)
District surplus, beginning of year				1,863,925	1,826,336
Transfers from general operating fund				51,411	 57,801
District surplus, end of year			\$	1,883,350	\$ 1,863,925

District of Wells Sewer System - Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2014

		2014	 2013
Financial assets Due from general operating fund	\$	22,099	\$ 13,253
Non-financial assets Tangible capital assets	_	1,050,692	 1,067,183
		1,050,692	 1,067,183
District Surplus	\$	1,072,791	\$ 1,080,436

Sewer System - Statement of Operations

	(2014 Budget unaudited)	 2014 Actual	2013 Actual
Revenue				
Customer billings	\$	32,726	\$ 33,911	\$ 31,168
Connection charges and custom work		800	1,798	-
Parcel taxes		40,110	39,900	 40,110
	-	73,636	75,609	 71,278
Expenses				
Administration		43,987	43,987	40,745
Amortization		-	16,490	16,491
Vehicle		ž.	2,130	121
Collection system		11,394	10,171	10,189
Lift station		7,765	3,013	6,003
Line flushing		8,000	7,463	7,852
		71,146	 83,254	 81,280
Annual Surplus (Deficit)		2,490	(7,645)	(10,002)
District surplus, beginning of year			 1,080,436	 1,090,438
District surplus, end of year			\$ 1,072,791	\$ 1,080,436



DISTRICT OF WELLS 2015 GOALS AND ACTIONS

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS
Update local legislation	Draft an updated Fire Services Bylaw
	 Draft an Adjudication Bylaw and associated procedures
	Evaluate and update Fees Bylaw
Recognize community	 Continue to host Volunteer Appreciation Night
volunteers and local non-profit	 Support inter-group communications and co-operation
groups	- Support local non-profit organizations through grants-in-aid and property tax exemptions
Road safety	 Work with the Province to improve signage on Highway 26 through Wells
	 Actively seek funds to purchase a second electronic speed sign on Hwy 26
Wildlife interface	 Explore options to improve the urban/wildlife interface in Wells
Beatification	 Continue to run the Annual Spring Clean-up
	 Work with the Province to address unsightly Crown properties
	 Actively seek opportunities to enhance Willow River Park
Community Daycare	 Support work of the Huckleberry Daycare
Community events	 Continue to host Multiculturalism Day festivities
	 Host Canada Games Torch Relay

2. Economic Diversification and Tourist Attraction					
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS				
Increase online marketing	 Work with NDIT to develop Small Town Love program site - LoveWells Create an active Facebook site for tourists Improve investment attraction content on wells.ca Improve facility rental information on wells.ca 				
Improve tourist oriented advertising	 Increase winter tourism promotion Map tourist attractions along Highway 26 and promote online Promote Wells at trade shows Promote Wells at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George 				
Print advertising	 Maintain existing level of print marketing 				
Partnered marketing	 Actively partner with Barkerville Heritage Trust and other local groups on marketing initiatives 				
Facility rental	 Actively promote Wells as a wedding destination 				

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS
Support a sustainable community	 Support private sector initiatives that provide new employment and services Support Barkerville Heritage Trust Support sustainable local mining initiatives Support services and housing options for an aging population Support maintaining sufficient tourist and seasonal accommodation in Wells Maintain Fitness Centre and actively promote membership to the facility Support maintenance and development of the trail network
Support development of new accommodation	 Investigate viable option and actions to address the seasonal housing shortage in Wells Work with the Province to expedite the release of Crown owned lots for public sale
Community planning	 Actively seek funds to develop an integrated Community Plan Actively seek funds to improve municipal strategic planning Complete CEEP (Community Energy and Emissions Planning) through BC Hydro
Fire Brigade Sustainability	 Organize recruitment drive Publicize house insurance benefits Pursue member certification and training
Emergency Planning	 Continue to lobby for the creation of Circular Route from Barkerville to Hwy 16 (Purden Lake) via Bowron Lake Road Update Emergency Management Plan Draft emergency preparedness informational brochure for the public
Community Forest	– Actively support the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Board through staff time and

	administrative support
Support staff employed by the District of Wells	 Support staff by providing training and development opportunities Support staff retention with competitive salaries, benefits and lifestyle incentives Source options for municipal intern
Records Management	 Improve electronic file management at the District Office
Conserve and Recycle	 Work with the Cariboo Regional District and local community groups to determine local recycling options Promote energy efficient options as recommended in CEEP document

4. Public Infrastructure Management						
OBJECTIVE ACTIONS						
Improve the appearance of Public Buildings	 Paint exterior of Town Hall Actively seek funds for painting of the Wells-Barkerville Community School Actively seek funds for renovation of the Community Church 					
Fire Hall improvements	 Work with Barkerville Heritage Trust to construct a suitable shelter for new fire truck 					
Lowhee Dike maintenance	 Reconstruct the lower portion of the Lowhee Dike Conduct regular inspections of the Lowhee Dike to assess condition and required repairs 					
Wells-Barkerville Community School improvements	 Complete security upgrades, installation of energy efficient lighting and upgrades to plumbing Complete application to Canada 150 fund for further work needed on the facility 					

Wildlife interface	 Continue to explore options to improve Urban/Wildlife interface in Wells 			
Blair Street Bridge	 Provide support to community groups as needed during bridge replacement project 			
Asset Management	 Actively seek funds to complete asset management planning 			
Snow operations	 Tender for multi-year snow clearing contract 			
Water and sewer operations	 Operate and maintain water filter Install fence at water treatment facility Operate and maintain Sewer Treatment Plant 			
Energy conservation	 Continue to investigate options for developing a biomass district heating system Continue maintenance and operation of geothermal system at the Wells-Barkerville Community School 			

5. Municipal Financial Sustainability				
Reduce debentures	 Minimize borrowing except where external funding sources are available for loan repayment 			
Maintain an adequate financial reserve	 Maintain reserve funds equivalent or greater than one year's total tax and utility revenue 			
Minimize tax and utility rate increases	 3% Tax Rate increase in 2014 and each year thereafter until 2018 and one time 5% Utility Rate increase in 2014 			

2015 GOALS AND ACTIONS 5

20 I (1)



DISTRICT OF WELLS BYLAW NO. 140, 2015

A BYLAW OF THE DISTRICT OF WELLS TO ESTABLISH THE FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE YEARS 2015 to 2019.

WHEREAS Section 165 (1) of the Community Charter requires the District Council to have a financial plan that is adopted by bylaw; and

WHEREAS the District Council has undertaken a process of public consultation regarding the proposed financial plan in accordance with Section 166 of the Community Charter.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the District of Wells, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

- 1. That Schedule "A", as attached hereto and made part of this bylaw, is hereby adopted as the 5 year Financial Plan of the District of Wells for the years 2015 to 2019.
- 2. That Schedule "B", as attached and made part of this bylaw, is hereby adopted as the 5year Capital Expenditure program of the District of Wells for the years 2015 to 2019.
- That Schedule "C", as attached and made part of this bylaw, is hereby adopted as the 3. 5- year financial Plan Statement of the District of Wells for the years 2015 to 2019.
- 4. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "District of Wells Financial Plan Bylaw No. 140, 2015"

PUBLIC CONSULTATION HELD on the 21st day of April, 2015.

READ A FIRST TIME this 21st day of April, 2015.

READ A SECOND TIME this 21st day of April, 2015.

READ A THIRD TIME this 21st day of April, 2015.

FINALLY READ AND ADOPTED this 5th day of May, 2015.

Sharpe, Mayor

Katrina Leckovic, CAO

DISTRICT OF WELLS Bylaw No. 140, 2015 Schedule "A"

đ

FINANCIAL PLAN

REVENUES		20:15		2016		2017		2018	颤	2019
Property Taxation	\$	169,337	\$	174,417	1\$	179,650	-	\$185,039	-	\$190,590
Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes	\$	9,726	\$		\$	10,119		\$10,321		\$10,528
Services for Other Governments	\$	6,120			\$			\$6,495	_	\$6,624
Other Revenues	\$	56,182	\$		\$	59,025	\$	60,205	\$	61,409
Government Grants	\$	470,981	\$		\$	479,500	\$	484,000	\$	
Other Grants	\$	130,984	\$	59,843	\$	59,843	\$	59,843	\$	59,843
Transfers From Reserves	\$	-	\$	21,006		27,192	\$	30,418	\$	42,073
Utility Users fees	\$	74,100	\$		\$	74,100		\$77,805		\$77,805
Borrowing	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$		\$	
Transfer From Accumulated Surplus	\$	-	\$		\$	-	\$		\$	
Transfer From Previous Year Surplus	\$	7,805	\$	5,353	\$	-	\$	4	\$	
TOTAL	188	925,235				8957496	822	S9144126		S 9874876
EXPENDITURES		2015		20116		2017		2018		2019
		100 55 4						110.005	_	155 004
General Government Services	\$	420,554	\$	428,965	\$		\$	446,295	\$	
Protective Services	\$	16,881	\$		\$	17,563		17,914	\$	18,273
Public Works	\$	152,404	\$	156,976		161,685		166,536	\$	171,532
Development Services & Planning	\$	59,135	\$		\$	61,524	\$	62,755	\$	64,010
Water Utility Operations	\$	76,423	\$		\$	79,510	\$	81,101	\$	82,723
Sewer Utility Operations	\$	74,611	\$		\$	77,625	\$	79,178	\$	80,761
Debt Principal	\$	6,256	\$		\$		\$		\$	
Debt Interest	\$	4,118	\$		\$	-	\$		\$	
Capital	\$	109,000	\$		\$	35,000	\$		\$	
Fiscal Charges	\$	500	\$		\$	500	\$	505	\$	510
TOTAL	S	919,882	\$	858,406	S	870,953	5	854,284	\$	873,029
Balance	\$	and part to be a first to be and		29,843		and the second second second		59,843	10.0.1	The second rectioned in
Surplus to Restricted Reserves	\$		\$	29,843	S	24,843	\$	59,843	\$	59,843
Surplus tranferred to Future Year	S	5,353	18	NUMBER OF STREET	\$	Z-STORIE DE	\$	State States	S	

DISTRICT OF WELLS Bylaw No. 140, 2015 Schedule "B"

5 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

		REVENUE	<u>S</u>			
Revenues	2015	2016	2067/200	2018	2019	TOTAL
Gen. Operating Fund	\$19,955	A CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACT AND	annan sainsan anna sa			\$19,95
Nater Operating Fund						\$(
Sewer Operating Fund						\$(
Reserve Funds & Surplus						\$0
Project Grants	\$106,000	\$108,000	\$35,000			\$249,000
Local Improvement Levy			_			\$(\$(\$(
Short Term Borrowing						\$0
ong Term Borrowing						\$(
Contributions			\$0			\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$125,955	\$108,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$268,95
		EXPENDITUR	RES			
Expenditures	2015	2016	2017		2019	anon alex
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT			Service of the			A-10.05
Community Planning/Dev.		\$78,000				\$78,000
Water Utility						\$(
Sewer Utility						\$(
and and Civic Buildings						\$(
Public Works						\$(
TOTAL PLANNING	\$0	\$78,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,00
LAND & BUILDINGS	-					
Civic Buildings	\$45,600					\$45,600
Fire Dept.& EOC	1 1.01000					\$(
Public Works						\$
Land						\$(
						\$
TOTAL BUILDINGS	\$45,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,60
Streets						• \$(
Sidewalks						\$
Water		\$30,000				\$30,00
Sewer			\$35,000			\$35,00
Storm Drainage						\$
Misc. Public Works	\$75,000					\$75,00
Parks						\$
TOTAL ENGIN. STRUCT.	\$75,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$140,00
SUBTOTAL PROJECTS	\$120,600	\$108,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$263,60
EQUIPMENT						
Public Works						\$
Office/Recreation	\$5,355					
Fire Department						\$
SUBTOTAL EQUIPMENT	\$5,355	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,35

DISTRICT OF WELLS Bylaw No. 140, 2015 Schedule "C"

2015 FINANCIAL PLAN STATEMENT

General Summary

3

For the past several years, the District of Wells has enjoyed a period of relative financial security resulting from a number of positive contributing factors. During those years, operational and capital costs were normally funded by current year revenues and producing a year-end surplus was the norm. In 2013 it was projected that then current spending patterns and revenue projections would result in the District beginning to face a deficit by 2015 that would increase with each passing year thereafter. Although the District has established a healthy financial reserve which could be used to address such emerging contingency issues, the magnitude of continuous and growing deficits over an extended period of years would not be sustainable.

Given the above, the District's 2015 to 2019 Financial Plan assumes a fiscally conservative stance to maintain a sustainable financial position for the municipality. While the current plan provides for the use of reserves to maintain operations, several steps could be taken to reduce the need to access reserves and help the municipality maintain a sustainable financial position:

- 1. In 2015 and each year thereafter, a 3% municipal tax increase;
- 2. In 2015 and every two years after, a Fees and Services Bylaw amendment to adjust fees to more accurately reflect municipal costs for services; and
- 3. In 2015 and 2018, a Garbage Bylaw amendment to increase rates to more accurately reflect the cost of providing the service;
- 4. In 2019, provide an increase of 5% for water and sewer user fees.

As the District strives for long-term financial sustainability, other future year cost reductions and revenue increases will be considered. Of particular importance is the continuation of the District practice of undertaking capital projects only where substantial costs can be covered by external grants.

It should be noted that development of this plan does require making assumptions regarding the stability of future municipal revenues and expenditures and most importantly, the continuation of the British Columbia Small Communities Protection Grant program. Should any of these inputs vary substantially it will be necessary to make corresponding changes to the plan in future years.

Proportion of total revenue from each funding source

Table 1 below shows the proportion of total revenue to be raised under the Plan from each funding source in 2015. At 60.4 percent, grants continue to be the largest and most important source of revenue for the municipality. Comparatively, property and parcel taxes in 2015 will account for a combined total of only 20.9 percent of the District's revenue requirements. User fees for municipal services such as the water and sewer utilities will account for an additional 13.2 percent. There is no short-term borrowing for Capital Projects in 2015. Other revenue, which is composed of services, provided to other levels of government, rentals and misc. funding make up the remaining 5.5 percent.

The above combination of grants, property taxes, user fees, and other revenue together have provided a historically stable and consistent source of operational funding for the District. For matters of capital funding, it should be noted that most District capital projects are based around external funding opportunities such as grant programs which minimize the impact of Capital work on our local taxpayer. Although this requires considerable flexibility when planning projects, it does allow a small community like Wells to undertake major projects that could not otherwise be funded. An exception to the requirement for flexible planning is the Federal Fuel Tax Rebate Program which provides stable annual funding for allowable capital projects and which was a major funding component of our recently completed Water Treatment Plant. Schedule "A" of this bylaw identifies these funds as annual transfers to Restricted Surplus where the funds reside until needed for allowable capital projects.

Grants	60.4%
Parcel taxes	12.2%
Property value taxes	8.7%
User fees and charges	13.2%
Proceeds from borrowing	0%
Transfers from reserves	0%
Other revenue	5.5%
TOTAL	100.0%

Table 1. Proportions of total revenue by source

Distribution of property taxes among the property classes

Table 2 illustrates the percentage of total property value tax revenue to be collected from each property class in 2015.

Table 2. Percentage of total property value tax by property class

Residential (Class 1)	51.0%
Utilities (Class 2)	5.3%
Major Industry	12.4%
(Class 4)	
Business (Class 6)	31.1%
Recreation/Non-Profit	0.2%
(Class 8)	
TOTAL	100.0%

Use of permissive tax exemptions

The Annual Municipal Report for 2014 will contain a list of permissive exemptions granted for the previous taxation year and the amount of tax revenue foregone. The list demonstrates the policy of council that permissive exemptions are granted to registered not-for-profit organizations that form a valuable part of our community. These include historical societies, recreational and service organizations and cultural institutions.

Tax Policy Statements

Policy Statement #1

Recognizing the fundamental requirement for the District of Wells to maintain a sustainable long term financial position it is the policy of the District of Wells that property tax increases over the span of this five-year Financial Plan should be the minimum necessary to meet that requirement.

Objective: The District of Wells increase municipal taxes at the rate of 3% in each of the 5 years of the Financial Plan.

Policy Statement #2

Within the context of the Financial Plan, Council recognizes that the District of Wells, having one of the smallest municipal tax bases in British Columbia, cannot unilaterally support municipal operations without substantial external sources of revenue. Furthermore without the annual unrestricted Provincial Small Community Protection Grant, the District of Wells would be unable to financially sustain itself. Therefore in order to sustain the municipality, it is the policy of the District to be a strong proponent for the continuation of senior government funding programs such as the B.C. Small Communities Protection Grant.

Objective: Over the five-year period of this financial plan, the District will be a strong proponent for the continuation of senior government funding programs for small municipalities in British Columbia and in particular for continuation of the B.C. Small Communities Protection Grant.

Policy Statement #3

The District of Wells shall actively pursue external grants and sources of revenue to fund any new operational programs or capital projects to minimize property tax impacts.

Objective: Over the five-year period of this financial plan, the District will minimize new operational and capital programs and projects that cannot be funded in whole or in part by external funding and grant programs.

Policy Statement #4

The District shall endeavor to minimize future changes to the proportional relationship between the property classes for tax purposes.

Objective: Using 2013 as a base year, maintain the status-quo of proportional relationships of property classes for taxation purposes.

Policy Statement #5

Council will continue to support permissive tax exemptions for properties owned by local registered non-profit organizations.

Objective: Assist local registered non-profit organizations in the community through the administration of permissive tax exemptions.

District of Wells Strategic Community Investment Funds Plan and Progress Report

(1) SCI Funds received or anticipated: Payments under the small community, regional district and traffic fine revenue sharing portions of the Strategic Community Investment Funds (SCI Funds) will be set out separately in the local government's SCI Funds Agreement.

Strategic Community Investment Funds	Use	Date	Amount
SC Grants	local government services	March 2014	0
		June 2014	\$ 260,667
RD Grants	local government services	March 2014	0
		June 2014	0
TFRS Grants	Defray the cost of local police	March 2014	0
	enforcement	June 2014	0

(2) SCI Funds intended use, performance targets and progress made:

Small Community or Regional District Portion of the SCI Funds

Intended Use	Performance	Progress made in reporting period
	Targets	(by June 30, 2015)
Funding used to support	Avoid	Moderate tax rate increases were needed due
essential local government	unsustainable	to general economic circumstances, although
infrastructure and services.	tax increases	these were minor compared to the
	and major	unsustainable increases that would be needed
	service cuts.	without the SC SCI funds.

Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Portion of the SCI Funds

Intended Use	Performance Targets	Progress made in reporting period (by June 30, 2015)
N/A		

(3) **Report Date:** 10 June 2015

Reports must be made by June 30th in each year of the SCIF Agreement.